

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 14 have been amended. Claims 15 - 20 have been added. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments or added claims, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claim 6 has been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 20 are now in the application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action dated February 24, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The phrase "computer-implemented" has been added to the claim preambles by amendment herein, and Applicants respectfully submit that this resolves any issues with §101. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §101 rejection.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Paragraph 4 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the final sentence of para. 4 states that written description has not been provided for Claims 1, 13, and 14 as to how to analyze obtained credentials and how the credentials of the user are being aggregated. Claims 1, 13, and 14 have been amended herein to more clearly specify how the obtained credentials are analyzed. (In particular, these claims specify that one or more identity

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functions are invoked, according to the specification thereof in the provisioning interface for the aggregated service.) Applicants believe that the Examiner's concern is clearly resolved with these amendments, and the Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §112 rejection.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being unpatentable over Sullivan, Jr. et al (U.S. 2003/0005090). Claim 6 has been cancelled from the application without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot as to Claim 6. The rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 14.

Sullivan fails to teach limitations of Applicants' independent Claims 1, 13, and 14. For example, Applicants fail to find any teaching, or any suggestion, in Sullivan of a "locating, in a network-accessible registry, a service description document" where this document "specif[ies] a provisioning interface ... [that specifies] how to invoke identity functions of the aggregated service" (Claim 1, lines 7 - 10). Clarification of Applicants' claimed "provisioning interface" is provided herein by the amendments on (for example) lines 9 - 10 of Claim 1, and Applicants respectfully submit that the citation (paragraph 6, line 6 of the Office Action) to reference numbers 201 and 600 is not relevant to their claimed provisioning interface. Instead, reference number 201 refers to a controller of a meta-server (see Fig. 2), and reference number 600 refers to "tool set" or "tool chain" (see para. 0086, first and second sentences).

Applicants also fail to find any teaching, or any suggestion, in Sullivan of "analyzing the obtained credentials by invoking one or more identity functions, according to the specification thereof in the provisioning interface ..." (Claim 1, lines 11 - 13). Paragraph 6, line 11 of the Office Action cites paras. 0021, 0023, and 0024 of Sullivan. Applicants fail to understand the relevance of para. 0023, which is discussing the operation system of a personal computer. Applicants respectfully submit that neither para. 0021 nor 0024 teaches the "analyzing ..." limitation of their independent claims.

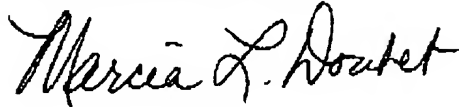
With reference to the final limitation of their independent claims, Applicants fail to understand the relevance of para. 0030, which is cited on p. 4, line 2 of the Office Action.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 13, and 14 are patentable over Sullivan. The dependent claims are therefore deemed patentable over the reference as well, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

IV. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marcia L. Doubet". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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